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[10537/276]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dieter HORSTMANN et al.

Serial No.: 10/722,932

Filed: November 26, 2003

For: **TOOL FOR TREATING METALLIC COMPONENTS WITH A SYSTEM FOR MONITORING THE OPERABILITY, AND METHOD OF MONITORING THE OPERABILITY OF A TOOL**

Examiner: Carolyn T. BLAKE

Art Unit: 3724

Confirmation No.: 9642

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: December 20, 2004

Signature: 

Clifford A. Ulrich

TRANSMITTAL

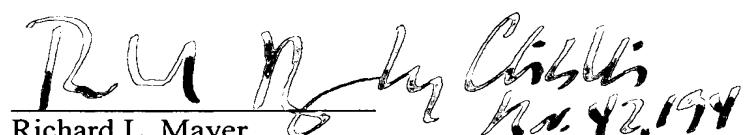
SIR:

Please find an Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified patent application.

No fee is believed to be required. However, if any fee is required, please use Deposit Account No. 11-0600. A duplicate of this transmittal letter is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 20, 2004 By:



Richard L. Mayer
(Reg. No. 22,490)

KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
Telephone: (212) 425-7200
Facsimile: (212) 425-5288
CUSTOMER NO. 26646

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Signature: Chris W.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of November 24, 2004, kindly amend the above-captioned application without prejudice as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.